

SENATE No. 324

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James B. Eldridge

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act requiring the use of paper ballots.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

James B. Eldridge
Cory Atkins

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Middlesex and Worcester
14th Middlesex

SENATE No. 324

By Mr. Eldridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 324) of James B. Eldridge and Cory Atkins for legislation to require the use of paper ballots. Election Laws.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 307 OF 2011-2012.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act requiring the use of paper ballots.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 1 of chapter 50 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting before the word “ballot”, in line 65, the word:-
3 paper.

4 SECTION 2. Section 33 of chapter 54 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
5 amended by inserting before the first paragraph the following paragraph:-

6 All voting systems shall allow voters to directly mark an official paper ballot, either by
7 hand or, in the case of voters with disabilities, by way of a marking device. All voting systems
8 shall allow the voter to verify his vote on the official ballot before the vote is cast. No voting
9 system shall be approved if the recording and tallying of the votes take place electronically in
10 one machine or in machines electronically connected to each other, even if such machines
11 provide a paper receipt. The official ballot marked, verified, and cast by the voter shall be the
12 official record of the vote. Only votes on official ballots may be counted.

13 SECTION 3. Said section 33 of said chapter 54, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
14 striking out, in lines 6-8, the words “but no machine shall be approved which does not secure to
15 the voter as much secrecy in voting as is afforded by the use of the official ballot” and inserting
16 in place thereof the following words:- but no machine shall be approved which does not allow

17 the voter to directly mark and verify his own official paper ballot, and does not secure to the
18 voter as much secrecy in voting as marking the official ballot by hand.

19 SECTION 4. Said section 33 of said chapter 54, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
20 striking out, in lines 35-37, the words “but no system shall be approved which does not secure to
21 the voter as much secrecy in voting as is afforded by the use of the official ballot” and inserting
22 in place thereof the following words:- but no system shall be approved which does not allow the
23 voter to directly mark and verify the voter’s own official paper ballot, and does not secure to the
24 voter as much secrecy in voting as marking the official ballot by hand.